GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:401
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
RESEARCH ON RISE IN HEART DISEASES
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AIIMS has conducted any research on the rise in heart diseases in the country and its treatment with the help of stem cells;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the use of stem cells has proved successful in curing heart diseases;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to intensify the research on stem cells?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 401 FOR 24TH AUGUST, 2005

The AIIMS is actively engaged in the research and therapeutic procedure involving use of various stem cells. AIIMS has conducted the following ethically cleared research on the use of stem cells in heart diseases:-

1) Stem cells were used in patients of coronary artery diseases while undergoing bypass surgery in 35 patients.

2) Stem cells were injected percutaneously in 17 patients of dilated cardiomyopathy while undergoing coronary angiography.

The results in the surgical patients have been successful with no side effects and improvements in the pumping function of the heart with clinical benefit to the patients. The results in the second series have been without any side effects or complications and the patients are being followed up for their clinical status and observation. Although the results are encouraging, the patients are still under regular follow up.

Realizing the potential of stem cell research in modern therapeutics and biomedical research, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology have strongly recommended that stem cell research and its clinical applications should be promoted in the country. India has emerged as one of the major countries involved in stem cell research. According to ICMR, around 15 institutions and 3 premier health centers in the country are presently involved in stem cell research and related activities. The ICMR is also in the process of establishing various cord blood stem cell banks in the country.